

ESTIMATES BRIEF - Hot Issue
Additional Estimates – February 2019

INDIGENOUS ENROLMENT RATE ESTIMATES

Subject/Issue

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has prepared Indigenous enrolment rate estimates that show an overall increase on previous estimates.

Key points

- AEC Indigenous enrolment rate estimates, show an overall increase on previous published data and shows that the Indigenous enrolment rate has grown at a faster pace than that of the Roll as a whole.
- As at 30 June 2018 the AEC estimates that the national Indigenous enrolment was 76.4 per cent.
- This new estimate based on more robust data reveals that the estimated number of Indigenous Australians of voting age, who are enrolled continues to rise.
- In the 12 months from 30 June 2017 to 30 June 2018 the AEC estimates there has been:
 - a 5.1 per cent increase in the estimated number of enrolled Indigenous Australians as a proportion of the estimated Indigenous population, rising from 364,631 to 383,078; and
 - a corresponding 4 per cent fall in the estimated number of non-enrolled Indigenous Australians from 123,517 to 118,581.
- In the same 12 month period the estimated Indigenous voting age population only increased by 2.8 per cent (13,511 electors) from 488,148 to 501,659.
- Any gap between non-Indigenous and Indigenous enrolment rates is disappointing, however it is encouraging to see that Indigenous enrolment rates have improved considerably since the last time estimates were prepared.
- This new estimates will further inform the strategies that the AEC is delivering to further increase electoral participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Background

Indigenous enrolment rate estimates

- Previous Indigenous enrolment rate estimates of 58 per cent were based on the best information we had at the time.
- These new figures are based on more recent and accurate data. Specifically, the AEC has been provided with self-identified Indigeneity data by the Department of Human Services, and with population data by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- The AEC will be using this improved methodology from here on, and we'll be updating the data every year as part of our annual roll-integrity review.
- Indigenous enrolment rate has grown at a faster pace than that of the Roll as a whole.
- The table below shows the estimated Indigenous enrolment rates at 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 by state and territory. A comparison column shows the rate of improvement across all states/territories and nationally.

State	Enrolment Rate as at 30 June 2017	Enrolment Rate as at 30 June 2018	Change in estimated Indigenous enrolled 30 June 2017 to 30 June 2018
NSW	85.9%	87.3%	+1.4%
VIC	73.6%	76.0%	+2.4%
QLD	70.0%	72.5%	+2.5%
WA	62.8%	63.8%	+1.0%
SA	67.9%	70.2%	+2.3%
TAS	83.3%	84.1%	+0.8%
ACT	76.2%	79.4%	+3.2%
NT	67.1%	67.5%	+0.4%
National	74.7%	76.4%	+1.7%

State of the electoral roll

- As at 31 December 2018, the estimated enrolment rate of the eligible population was 96.2 per cent, which is 1.2 percentage points higher than on election day for the 2016 federal election.
- An estimated 95 per cent of the eligible population was enrolled to vote at the 2016 federal election (compared with 92.4 per cent at the 2013 election).

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